

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of the Administrator  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 6, 2011

Dr. Kenneth Ford  
Chairman  
NASA Advisory Council  
Washington, DC 20546

  
Dear Dr. Ford:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held on August 4-5, 2011, at the NASA Ames Research Center. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on the response. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to the recommendation and welcome its continued observations, recommendations, and advice concerning the U.S. civil space program.

I look forward to working closely with you and the members of the Council in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Bolden, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

Enclosure:  
2011-03-01 (SC-01) Capturing Decadal Survey Lessons Learned

## **NASA Advisory Council Recommendation**

### **Capturing Decadal Survey Lessons Learned 2011-03-01 (SC-01)**

#### **Recommendation:**

NASA should request a formal examination by the National Research Council (NRC) of the lessons learned, from the perspective of the National Academies, from recent NASA-related decadal surveys. Planning for this examination should be initiated after the release of the Heliophysics Decadal Survey in early 2012, and this examination should make recommendations about the next cycle of decadal surveys, which will begin circa 2015.

#### **Major Reasons for the Recommendation:**

Lessons learned, from NASA's perspective, are being captured. But the lessons learned, from the perspective of the National Academies, are also vital to maintaining the importance and continued value of the decadal surveys.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:**

The collection and examination of lessons learned will become more difficult with the passage of time, and the failure to capture these lessons could adversely affect the importance and continued value of future decadal surveys.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with this recommendation. The Science Mission Directorate has had initial discussions with the NRC about a workshop exploring decadal survey lessons learned. The focus and scope of such a workshop will be determined. The Space Studies Board has suggested November 2012 for a workshop, but optimal timing for the activity will depend in part on the release and assessment of the impacts of the new Heliophysics survey, which is presently under development and projected for completion in March 2012.